THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A suggestion was made by the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) for framing uniform guidelines for issuance of minority status certificates by the States to Minority Education Institutions.

(c) and (d) It was clarified to the NCM that while no uniform guidelines could be prescribed as the State Governments were competent to issue such certification, the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) Act, 2004 has been amended to empower the NCMEI to grant minority status certification wherever it was proved that such certification had been denied without reason in violation of the rights of the minorities under Article 30(1) of the Constitution.

(e) Does not arise.

Opening of new universities

†179. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the felt need for universities in the country at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has recommended to open 735 universities by the year 2010 during the Eleventh Five Year Plan itself, in order to increase the registration rate in higher education;

(c) if so, the estimate of expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard; and

(d) by when the target of opening 735 new universities would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) In a study commissioned by the University Grants Commission (UGC) for preparing the Working Group Report for the 11th Five Year Plan, it has been estimated that a total of 1072 universities would be required to cater to an enrolment criterion of 20,000 students per university by 2012 thereby requiring an increase of 735 universities. However, based on a student enrolment criterion of 30,000 students per university, the same study has estimated that only 378 more universities would be required. The actual requirement of universities would depend on the enrolment criteria that is adopted, regional imbalances, demand for inclusiveness in admissions for the deprived sections, and availability of resources including teaching faulty.

(c) and (d) Universities can be established by Central, as well as State legislations. Institutions can also be declared "deemed-to-be-universities" under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act 1956. Taking into consideration various projections and availability of resources, during the XI Plan, the Central Schemes provide for 30 new Central Universities including 14 aiming for world-class standards, 8 new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), 6 new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), 5 new Indian Institutes of Science

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Education and Research (IISERs) and 2 Schools of Planning and Architecture (SPAs). There are schemes in the XI Plan for incentivising the States to create new universities. A total provision of Rs. 84,943 crore has been made in the XI Plan for strengthening higher education.

Rules for deemed university status

†180. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the rules for grant of deemed university status to educational institutions;

(b) the number of deemed universities at present;

(c) the number of educational institutions granted the deemed university status during the last five years and the number of non-Government universities, out of that;

(d) how many deemed universities out of them do not fulfil the required conditions and the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure fulfilment of all the conditions by the deemed universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Applications from institutions for declaration as institution deemed to be university, under section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, are considered on the basis of the provisions contained in the UGC guidelines in this regard.

(b) and (c) As per information provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC), as on 01.10.2008, there are 116 institutions which have been declared deemed to be universities. During the last 5 years, 56 institutions have been so declared, 45 of which are managed by private trusts/societies.

(d) and (e) While no institution is declared a deemed to be university without the express recommendations of the UGC, in regard to fulfilment of the required conditions laid down in the Commission's Guidelines, institutions which have potential for teaching and research in innovative areas of knowledge with promise of excellence are also considered for grant of status under the *de-novo* category with certain exemptions available to them in accordance with the UGC guidelines and subject to periodical review by Expert Committees constituted by the Commission. Out of 12 institutions declared deemed to be universities under the *de-novo* category, 11 declarations have been made in the last 5 years.

New colleges in backward districts

†181. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.